ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Schools,

OF THE

TOWN OF PALMER,

For the Year Ending March 7, 1864.

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G. M. FISK AND COMPANY, PRINTERS,
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SCHOOL REPORT.

THE School Committee of Palmer respectfully submit the following detailed report relative to the several schools intrusted to their supervision the past year:

The Committee met, April 2, 1863, and organized, selecting Mr. D. Granger, Chairman and Secretary. The Committee decided at that meeting that each member of the Board take charge of the following schools for the then current year:

D. Granger, those in districts 3, 4 and 8; D. M. Stebbins, 2, 6 and 12; L. H. Arnold, 1, 5, 9, 10 and 11. Mr. Arnold not being able to visit those allotted to him the past winter, on account of his business arrangements, they were visited by the other two members.

DISTRICT NO. 1. (OLD CENTER.)

The school the past year, consisting of three terms, has been intrusted to Miss Helen King, making two consecutive years that she has taught it, proving herself a very faithful and successful teacher in this district.

The whole number attending the Summer term was twenty-three, averaging nineteen; whole number attending Winter term twenty-two, averaging seventeen.

DISTRICT NO. 2. (THREE RIVERS.)

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

This department has been taught by Miss M. A. Seaver of Palmer during the year past, with entire satisfaction to

the Committee, the pupils and the citizens of the district. Miss Seaver is one of our best teachers. The average attendance the Summer term was affected in consequence of the burning of the factory in this village, causing many to leave during the term. Whole number of pupils attending Summer term was sixty, averaging forty-four. Ditto Winter term thirty-six, averaging twenty-nine.

GRADED DEPARTMENT.

The Summer and Fall terms were taught by Miss Lizzie Sedgwick of Palmer, a superior scholar. This department being composed of the largest scholars, and most difficult to control, made it very trying to the teacher, yet she succeeded in keeping good order, and her pupils made very commendable progress.

Whole number of pupils attending school was forty, averaging twenty-nine.

Winter term was intrusted to A. H. Weaver of Wales. The school was badly conducted the former part of the term, but the latter part was more creditable to the teacher and school. We cannot recommend him as a good disciplinarian. Notwithstanding he did not keep good order, his pupils made fair progress in their studies.

Whole number attending was forty-six, averaging thirty-five and a half.

DEPOT DISTRICT, NO. 3.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Miss Eliza J. Tupper, (the teacher for the three previous years) was employed to teach the Summer term, and taught one week, when she was taken sick, and after a suspension of the school two weeks, resigned. The remainder of the term was taught by Miss Maria Smith of Amherst, a teacher of some experience. The school was very large, and composed of so little children that she found it almost impossible to keep good order. Yet her scholars made fair progress.

The Winter term was again intrusted to Miss Tupper, meeting with superior success. Her whole number of pupils was seventy-five. Miss T. has not her superior as teacher in this department in this town.

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

The school in this department for the past year has been taught by Miss Jennie E. Hastings of Palmer, a teacher of several years' experience. This department for two years previous to Miss Hastings taking charge of it, did not prosper so favorably as was desired. But under her judicious, mild and decisive discipline the school has greatly prospered. At the close of the Winter term the pupils manifested their respect and love for her by presenting a beautiful Album to her. The whole number of pupils, Summer term, was forty-three, averaging thirty-eight; Winter term, whole number was forty-eight, averaging forty-two, equal to 88 per cent. for the year.

GRADED.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Mary McLean, a teacher very highly recommended, and a graduate of Mount Holyoke Seminary. The school in this department having been well conducted the previous year, and several scholars having made very good progress in Latin and Rhetoric under the separate instruction of Mr. J. Benson R. Pettee, (teacher of languages) Miss McLean was more especially employed to take charge of the advanced classes, together with the English branches. Her system of teaching and of governing was in many respects new. Her school appeared to prosper until near the close of the term, when, from various circumstances, the pupils became generally displeased with her, resulting in most of them leaving, and a closing of the school without an examination. Miss McLean failed to gain the respect and good will of her pupils.

Winter term was intrusted to the Rev. William K. Vaill, late of Gloucester, having taught in various places

for twenty years past. The school consisted in the former part of the term of fifty scholars. There was not that harmony and good will existing between the teacher and the scholars during the term that is necessary to insure entire success. The pupils did not become deeply interested in their studies, and for various reasons nearly one-half left the school before its close.

Teachers can succeed here who are good disciplinarians, kind and *energetic.*

BLANCHARDVILLE, (Mixed.)

The Summer term was entrusted to Miss Jennie E. Tupper, the teacher of the previous term. Her success was good, though her Register does not show so favorable an average attendance as has been secured by some other teachers. The cause no doubt was beyond the control or responsibility of the teacher.

Whole number of pupils twenty-four, averaging eighteen.

Miss Jerane Howe of Monson has taught the school the past Winter very successfully. This was Miss Howe's first term of school in this town, but it is hoped that it will not be the last, as she proved herself to be just such a teacher as every school district needs. The average attendance of scholars was affected as in the summer time. Whole number twenty-nine.

DISTRICT NO. 4. (Mason.)

Miss Josie E. Fowler of Westfield has taught the school in this district the past year. Her experience as teacher was quite limited previous to taking this school, yet she so conducted it as to secure a good attendance of the pupils, and they made commendable progress. The whole number attending Summer term was thirty, averaging twenty-three; ditto Winter term twenty-eight, averaging twenty-two.

DISTRICT NO. 5. (Foster.)

Miss Hattie L. Smith of this town has taught the school in this district during the year past, with very creditable success, securing the best average attendance of any teacher in town, being ninety-four per cent. The parents of this district are in favor of keeping their children regularly at school, which greatly aids teachers.

DISTRICT NO. 6. (Burleigh.)

Miss Marcia L. Burleigh taught the Summer term. The pupils under her charge made good progress, and general good satisfaction was given the district and Committee. Miss B. has taught several years in this town, always meeting with good success. Whole number of pupils thirty, averaging twenty-six.

Winter term was taught by Miss Lizzie Sedgwick. The pupils made good progress, and general good order was maintained. Miss S. is a superior teacher, and much better adapted to a higher grade of schools than the one in this district.

Whole number of pupils was twenty-six, averaging eighteen.

DISTRICT NO. 8. (Shearer.)

The schools in this district depend mostly for scholars living in the town of Monson, and whether to have any school or not depends upon the arrangement that can be made with the school Committee of that town for its support. According to the Assessor's returns, there are nine children in the district between the ages of five and fifteen years, and there are about fifteen residing in Monson really obliged to attend school in this district.

The Summer term of school was dispensed with because no arrangement could be made with the Committee of Monson. It was arranged between the Committees of the respective towns that Palmer should pay sixteen dollars and Monson twenty dollars, and teacher board around

for a Winter term. Upon this arrangement Miss Marcia Burleigh has taught a term of three months very satisfactorily to all interested. Whole number sixteen, averaging fourteen.

DISTRICT NO. 9. (GAMWELL.)

The school in this district has been taught by Miss Lucia E. Burleigh of Palmer, her first attempt at teaching. There were but seven pupils the Summer term, averaging six. Winter term was better attended, being sixteen, averaging thirteen. Miss B. succeeded in keeping good order, and the pupils made fair progress in their studies. She being quite young, should not attempt too responsible positions as teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 10. (BONDVILLE AND DUCKVILLE.)

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

The school in this department has been very fortunately entrusted to Miss Lizzie A. Peters of Belchertown for one year past. It is seldom we meet with teachers better qualified to conduct a primary school than Miss P. Her manner of conducting a school is worthy of consulting and imitating. The people of the district may feel grateful that the money has been well spent in this department.

SECOND DEPARTMENT.

This department has been taught by Miss Loraine Atwood for the past year. There being no third department in the Summer and fall, made Miss A.'s labor very hard and trying, but judging from the Register and examinations, her school was quite successfully taught.

GRADED.

There was but one term of graded school taught in this district the past year, and that the past Winter of three months, by Mr. Philander Thurston, a student of Amherst College, and a teacher of much experience. The school

under him was very successfully conducted during the term. It is almost impossible for a teacher like Mr. T. to fail in gaining the best respects of his pupils and the parents.

DISTRICT NO. 11. (Hastings.)

The Prudential Committee deemed it for the best interest of the district to dispense with a Summer term, hence did not have any. A Fall term was commenced August 17th, by Miss Emily E. Dorman, and taught two and a half months. Miss D. has been entrusted with the school in this district several terms, for three years past, and has always given very general satisfaction, this term being as creditable to her as any former one.

Whole number was thirteen, averaging eleven.

Winter term, taught by Miss Lucy A. S. Hastings, a teacher of several years' experience in this district and town, and has always been a very successful teacher.

Whole number was thirteen, averaging twelve.

DISTRICT NO. 12. (Thorndike.)

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Miss Mary E. Breard of this district has taught the school in this department for two years past *very successfully*, maintaining and confirming her previous good reputation.

Whole number of pupils attending Summer term was forty-five, averaging thirty-seven. Ditto Winter term was thirty-two, averaging twenty-six.

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

The school in this department for the past year has again been taught by Miss A. Louisa Smith, making three consecutive years that she has been engaged here. Her success has been equal if not superior to any former year.

This department has not been so well attended as it was some former years, owing no doubt to parents leaving the district and others requiring their children to work in the mills.

Whole number attending Summer term was thirty-four, averaging twenty-four. Winter term, whole number twenty-eight, averaging twenty.

GRADED DEPARTMENT.

Miss H. J. Moulton of Monson has taught the school for the past year. There are but a few female teachers capable of controlling scholars usually attending this department the Winter term, yet Miss M., with much apparent ease, maintained very creditable order and obedience. Her manner of teaching is prompt, decisive and energetic, and yet kind. Her pupils made very commendable progress. There are scholars enough in this district to make a large school, but in consequence of deep-seated prejudices among many of the parents, pupils have been sent away to school or a private school has been kept.

Whole number of pupils attending Summer term was twenty, averaging seventeen. Ditto Winter term twenty-nine, averaging twenty-four.

Your Committee, in concluding their Report, feel justified in saying that the schools have, as a whole, been entrusted to experienced and faithful teachers, most of whom have remained in the same departments during the year. In every instance where teachers have continued through the year in the same school, they have met with good success. Yet it is better to change every term than to retain *unsuitable* teachers; for there can scarcely happen anything more lasting and injurious to our youth than habits and principles acquired through the *inability* of a teacher to properly govern his scholars, and the inability to impress upon their minds those principles absolutely necessary for their success in life. The success and pros-

perity of our schools are owing mainly to the peculiar fitness and aptness of our teachers. No law can be passed, no act of the Committee or of the parents can supply the teacher with those qualifications necessary to enable him to unite his school and the parents in his behalf.

Respectfully submitted.

D. GRANGER,
D. M. STEBBINS, } COMMITTEE.
L. H. ARNOLD,

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

No. 1.—Summer Term.

No.	DISTRICT.	TEACHERS.	WAGES.	Time in Months	Whole No.	Av'rage No.
1	Old Center,	Helen King,	$12 00	3	23	19
2	Three Rivers, Prim'y,	M. A. Seaver,	21 00	3	60	44
	" " Grade,	Lizzie Sedgwick,	21 00	3	40	28
3	Depot, Primary,	Maria F. Smith,	21 00	2½	58	47
	" Intermediate,	Jennie E. Hastings,	20 00	3	43	38
	" Grade,	Mary McLean,	33 33⅓	3	35	27
	Blanchardville,	Jennie E. Tupper,	21 00	3	24	18
4	Mason,	Josie E. Fowler,	18 00	4	30	23
5	Foster,	Hattie L. Smith,	16 00	2½	17	16
6	Burleigh,	Marcia L. Burleigh,	18 00	3	30	26
9	Gamwell,	Lucia E. Burleigh,	15 00	2	7	6
10	Bondville, Primary,	Lizzie A. Peters,	20 00	3	65	53
	" Grade,	Loraine Atwood,	20 00	3	48	40
12	Thorndike, Primary,	Mary E. Breard,	22 00	3	45	37
	" Interm'te,	A. Louisa Smith,	22 00	3	34	24
	" Grade,	H. J. Moulton,	28 00	3	20	17

No. 2.—Fall Term.

No.	DISTRICT.	TEACHERS.	WAGES.	Months	Whole No.	Av'rage No.
1	Center,	Helen King,	$10 66⅔	1½	20	16
2	Three Rivers, Prim'y,	M. A. Seaver,	21 00	2	47	33
	" Grade,	Lizzie Sedgwick,	21 00	2	40	29
5	Foster,	Hattie L. Smith,	16 00	2	17	15
10	Bondville, Primary,	Lizzie A. Peters,	22 00	2	75	63
	" Grade,	Loraine Atwood,	22 00	2	42	31
11	Hastings,	Emily E. Dorman,	16 00	2½	13	11
12	Thorndike, Primary,	Mary E. Breard,	24 00	3	39	32
	" Interm'te,	A. Louisa Smith,	24 00	3	26	20
	" Grade,	H. J. Moulton,	40 00	1¼	18	15

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS, (Continued.)

No. 3.—Winter Term.

No.	DISTRICT.	TEACHERS.	WAGES.	Months	Whole No.	Av'rage No.
1	Center,	Helen King,	$16 00	3	22	17
2	Three Rivers, Prim'y,	M. A. Seaver,	23 00	3	36	29
	" Grade,	A. H. Weaver,	30 00	3	46	36
3	Depot, Primary,	Eliza J. Tupper,	22 00	4	75	55
	" Intermediate,	Jennie E. Hastings,	22 00	4	48	42
	" Grade,	Wm. K. Vaill,	40 00	4	50	40
	Blanchardville,	Jerane E. Howe,	22 00	4	29	22
4	Mason,	Josie E. Fowler,	18 00	3½	28	22
5	Foster,	Hattie L. Smith,	16 00	2½	19	18
6	Burleigh,	Lizzie Sedgwick,	20 00	3	26	18
8	Shearer,	Marcia L. Burleigh,	20 00	3	16	14
9	Gamwell,	Lucia E. Burleigh,	15 00	3½	16	13
10	Bondville, Primary,	Lizzie A. Peters,	22 00	3	45	37
	" Interme'te,	Loraine Atwood,	22 00	3	37	32
	" Grade,	Philander Thurston,	40 00	3	38	28
11	Hastings,	Lucy A. S. Hastings,	18 00	3	13	12
12	Thorndike, Primary,	Mary E. Breard,	24 00	3	32	26
	" Interm'te,	A. Louisa Smith,	24 00	3	28	20
	" Grade,	H. J. Moulton,	40 00	2⅞	29	24

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS, AND DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL MONEY FOR 1863-64.

School District	No. of Sch'lr's	$2 000 divided by the Assessors.	$157 24, State School Fund; Merrick Fund, $49 50.	$400 00 for Graded Schools.	$300 00 by Com'ittee for Poor Districts.	Total.	Amount to each Scholar.
No. 1.	30	$80 76	$18 79			$99 55	$3 32
" 2.	127	341 84	18 79	$100 00		460 63	2 84
" 3.	200	538 34	18 79	100 00	$65 00	722 13	3 61
" 4.	33	88 82	18 80		10 00	117 62	3 56
" 5.	16	43 07	18 80		50 00	111 97	7 00
" 6.	29	78 06	18 80		30 00	126 86	4 37
" 7.	5	13 47				13 47	2 68
" 8.	9	24 24	18 79			43 03	4 78
" 9.	10	26 94	18 80		50 00	95 74	9 57
" 10.	122	328 39	18 80	100 00	75 00	522 19	4 28
" 11.	19	51 17	18 79		20 00	89 96	4 73
" 12.	143	384 90	18 79	100 00		503 69	3 52
	743	2000 00	206 74	$400 00	$300 00	$2916 84	

Average per Scholar, $3 92.